GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:728
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
NURSES IN HEALTHCARE SERVICES
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of nurses as compared to the total health care workers in the country;

(b) whether the nurses are often victims of needle stick injuries as compared to other hospital employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) It is estimated that nurses constitute about 30-40 % of the total healthcare force.

(b) & (c) Nurses are exposed to blood borne infections including HIV and Hepatitis B due to injury through "sharps", such as needle stick. The most common device causing injury was the syringe used for withdrawing samples, injections and the injury resulted from attempting to re-cap the needle.

(d) The Central Government Hospitals provide the medicines and vaccines for post exposure prophylaxis for hepatitis B and HIV infections. These Medicines are provided free of cost.

Guidelines have been issued to Hospitals in this regard to organize reorientation for various category of staff of hospitals to follow strictly universal precautions to avoid such type of injuries.